

SITUATION REPORT NO. 56
INCIDENT NO. 97-015
DATE: July 17, 1997 TIME: 1:00 P.M.

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer
State Capitol
Bismarck, ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Spring flood statewide.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: No change from previous reports.
3. DAMAGES: Heavy rainfall during the past weekend in eastern North Dakota caused the Pembina River to swell nine feet in five days. The Pembina River crested at 18.4 feet on July 16; flood stage is 18 feet. The river dropped 2.1 feet during the past 24 hours to 16.2 feet. Rainfall amounts of up to 13 inches in the Wales area in Cavalier County and 2.41 inches in Walhalla in Pembina County contributed to the rising river.

Because of recent rains in the Devils Lake Basin, the lake at Creel Bay has risen to 1,442.84 feet. Even with the additional rainfall this past weekend, the National Weather Service still expects the lake to crest near or at 1,443 feet.

The Missouri River remains above flood stage in Williston. The river was at 24.13 feet on July 17; flood stage is 20 feet. In Bismarck, the river has risen to 13.92 feet; flood stage is 16 feet. High releases from the Garrison Dam will keep the river high at Bismarck. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) continues to release close to 59,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) from the dam, where the reservoir level was 1,853.6 feet on July 17. The highest reservoir level recorded was 1,854.8 feet, which occurred in 1975. Its highest recorded level in 1997 was 1,854.4 feet on July 2.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: No change from previous reports.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: Grand Forks city and county officials assumed responsibility from state officials on July 15 for management of undesignated donated goods and services. The city of Grand Forks and Grand Forks County have formed a Donated Goods and Services Board to oversee operations. The city has hired a warehouse manager and four workers through a Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) grant. The N.D. League of Cities had coordinated efforts for undesignated goods and services for the State. The Adventist Community Services had provided management for receiving, storing and moving goods to distribution centers.

The Salvation Army has hired additional personnel to implement a long-term recovery and restoration plan to continue to assist flood survivors. Social service workers will remain in Grand Forks for a minimum of two years to address flood-related issues with residents. Counseling,

mental health support and community programs will be accessible to Grand Forks residents on a year-round basis.

The Salvation Army "Operation We Care" recovery efforts include feeding and coordinating more than 100 volunteers daily to distribute cleaning supplies, personal hygiene items, food and paper products at the Grand Forks Distribution Center. Vouchers are also being issued at the Distribution Center to assist residents with special travel, medical, clothing and nutritional needs.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: Governor Schafer has requested Maj. Gen. Murray Sagsveen, the State's Flood Recovery Coordinator, to conduct an after-action review of the state's response and recovery efforts. This review is to be coordinated with other agencies and will determine what measures can be taken to minimize the damage in future floods, identify lessons learned and facilitate appropriate changes to the State Emergency Operations Plan. The first State Flood Recovery Task Force meeting was conducted on July 16 to establish goals and a format for completing the after action review before winter.

The State Industrial Commission has approved a \$25 million line of credit for the city of Grand Forks. The money covers costs to the city until Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funds and other disaster aid arrives.

Six flood-displaced families have moved into manufactured homes at the Industrial Park in Grand Forks. FEMA Disaster Housing is preparing two sites, Industrial and Princeton Parks, for manufactured homes. Disaster Housing staff members are determining the number of homes needed for flood-displaced families.

The state Office of Intergovernmental Assistance has awarded a \$50,000 grant to the Energy and Environmental Research Center in Grand Forks to offer consulting services on energy efficiency for businesses, non-profit organizations and individuals.

The North Dakota Attorney General issued a public service announcement urging Grand Forks area residents to request contractors to show state-issued picture identification cards. Contractors authorized to provide flood repair and cleanup are required to carry the cards at all times. The Attorney General's Office also developed a public service announcement for the Red River Valley advising residents to obtain estimates and contracts for flood repair or cleanup, in writing. Residents were also urged to avoid making large advance payments to contractors. Persons with questions were directed to call the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division.

The N.D. Department of Agriculture is urging Devils Lake Basin landowners to participate in its State Waterbank Program (SWB). The Department of Agriculture will receive up to \$500,000 from the N.D. Game and Fish Department to lease 3,500 acres. The transfer was authorized by the 1997 State Legislature as a means of increasing water storage and enhancing wildlife habitat in the upper Devils Lake Basin.

State/FEMA crisis counselors are developing a coloring book for children to help them cope with problems created by the flood disaster. The coloring book will be distributed this fall.

The Public Assistance Program will close its Minot satellite field office on July 26. State/FEMA public assistance inspectors are working at field offices in Bismarck, Devils Lake, Fargo, Grand Forks, Jamestown and Minot.

To date, Public Assistance staff has prepared Damage Survey Reports (DSRs) for the 1997 flood for more than \$46.6 million of infrastructure repairs, emergency work and debris removal in the declared counties.

As of July 16, Job Service North Dakota has paid nearly \$3.7 million in Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA). The agency has received 8,199 DUA applications.

A total of 35,836 North Dakotans have reported personal property damages to the National Teleregistration Center (NTC). Of those applicants, 23,451 have received more than \$47.8 million in Disaster Housing assistance.

Of 9,631 University of North Dakota (UND) students, 6,158 have registered with the NTC. A total of 2,685 students applied for housing, 1,630 of whom were eligible for assistance.

The Small Business Administration has approved to date more than \$142 million in low-interest loans for businesses and individuals. The SBA has received 10,623 loan applications, 6,003 of which have been approved. Of the loans, 61 percent were to home owners for real estate and personal property losses and 39 percent were to business owners for repairs to businesses and for lost income.

The Individual and Family Grant (IFG) program administered by the Division of Emergency Management has approved nearly \$6.8 million in grants to individuals for flood losses. The average IFG grant is \$1,313.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No change from previous reports.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from previous reports.
9. OTHER: Other web site addresses for flood recovery information include:

N.D. Division of Emergency Management: <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>
N.D. League of Cities: <http://www.ndlc.org>
N.D. State Water Commission: <http://water.swc.state.nd.us>
N.D. Attorney General Office: <http://www.state.nd.us/ndag>
N.D. Department of Agriculture: <http://www.state.nd.us/agr/>
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: <http://www.ncs-wc.usace.army.mil>
U.S. Geological Survey: <http://srv1dndbmk.cr.usgs.gov/public/index.html>

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